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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCE METHOD EXEMPTION 3B2B
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2006

NSM-A-

SECRET

Security Information

Chief, EE

2 April 1953

Chief of Mission, Frankfurt

Operational/CART/CAGUS

LAFLUTTER Examination of Otto HANTEL

1. Subject was examined on 1 April 1953 at the request of []
to ascertain veracity concerning background, security and motivation.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION: SUBJECT ALLEGES: He was born on 30 December 1899, received a fair education which was interrupted by his drafting into the German Army in World War 1, his military career being in turn interrupted by capture by the U.S. Army at the end of the war. From 1920 to 1930 Subject was in the regular police, Berlin. 1931-2 he worked for the "Finanzamt Rosenthaler Tor", Berlin, joined NSDAP. In 1932 he was recalled to the Berlin Kripo and put into the career-groove of "Kriminalassistent", achieving permanent status in 1933, July. Subject was assigned to the Gestapo in 1935 and permanently transferred in 1938, in anti-Communist work. In 1942 he was assigned to and in 1943 transferred to the RSHA Amt VI, where he had the duty of supervising espionage trainees and agent-candidates. In 1944 he was transferred to do espionage-agent control in Luxemburg and also got married. By virtue of his RSHA assignment he was automatically put into the SS. He retreated before the US Army's advance to Innsbruck, where he was captured, after a short tour-de-force during which he tried to use the identity "Hentschel" in order to avoid arrest. In 1946 he was delivered to the Government of Luxemburg, from where he was released in August 1950, without being formally brought to trial, and after considerable mistreatment resulting in the elimination of a few front teeth. Subject claims to "have learned" that he drew a sentence of five years to cover the period spent in jail. Subject claims to have no children. Since his release, Subject has made numerous efforts to obtain employment, without avail. He lives partly from his wife's earnings and partly from a pension of DM 142 he draws. Subject appears to have stated his true identity, and to have told the main truth about his past movements and does not appear to be guilty of serious post-war crime.

3. SECURITY & MOTIVATION: The following specific questions were put to the Subject, with results as shown: (NOTE: "NSR" means "no significant reaction" and indicates veracity unless otherwise specified.):-

Are you an espionage agent of SSD, the Russians, or any Communist regime? No.

NSR.

Did you ever do secret work for SSD, the Soviet-Russians, or for other Communists?

No. NSR.

Since 1945, have you committed murder or other serious criminal crime? No. NSR.

In the last two years, have you engaged in homosexual intercourse? No. NSR.

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Were you ever in RSHA Amt VI, Gruppe F? Yes. Slight reaction; Subject alleged he thought of his difficulties in Luxembourg and how they were referable to this aspect of his past; denied any guilt-feelings about this employment; reactions faded away, probably of no significance.

Did you tell me the truth about your treatment in Luxembourg? Yes. Subject related that he had been knocked around a bit; confessed to knocking around one Luxemburgian prisoner he had had during the war; denied any criminal activity. He was held responsible for the death of 11 individuals, but no proof was apparently obtainable. Subject says he was responsible to the extent that he had official connections with the prisons from which these individuals "never returned", but that he had no hand in or knowledge of their demise. He states he was finally given a "leave of absence" from the prison; had to sign an agreement that he would not leave the French Zone. He claims he told the warden where he was going (to join his wife) outside the French Zone, but this apparently no longer made a difference to the Luxemburgers. He said he had never, to his knowledge, been convicted of or sentenced for anything, but that "even judges" were being sentenced to five years, and that he heard in a roundabout way that he had been sentenced to five years. All he claims to have is the leave of absence slip; denied escaping from the prison or obligating himself in anyway to do secret work for any organization in order to obtain his release. Subject reacts slightly and consistently to this question, denies any and all deception with regard to it. Deception, if any, would appear to be of minor importance.

Did you ever use the cover-name HENTSCHEL? Yes. Subject related that this was a false name and documentation issued to him by his office in 1945 in a last effort to escape arrest and that he only used it a short time. Subject reacts slightly and consistently to the question. No admissions; significance, if any, appears to be minor.

Is there a secret in your life with which you can be blackmailed successfully? No. NSR.

Do you knowingly maintain secret connections with a British, Luxemburg, or other West-European IS? No. NSR.

Do you knowingly maintain secret connections with any German or Austrian IS? No. NSR.

Did you tell me the truth about your negotiations with GERN? Yes. Subject was originally asked about his negotiations with one RAMLOW, who had, allegedly, approached him to get into the "Amt des Verfassungsschutzes". He stated he had got the names mixed up, and that RAMLOW was just an old friend. Subject claimed he had meant to say GERN when questioned on this originally. He stated that he had been standing in front of a store window in Munich when one Peter GERN, whom he knew as a former SS man, and disliked as a braggart, came up and started an ambiguous conversation from which the Subject gathered he was being offered a job with the Amt des Verfassungsschutzes, although this was not specifically stated. Subject states that he let GERN see that he had no interest in any such a deal. Subject reacts slightly and consistently to this question. On further interrogation he said that he had been hard up to get any employment but had refused this offer mainly because he had heard from various official friends of his what types were in this Amt, well-concealed Communists, etc. Subject averred that one could not actually call these "negotiations". Reaction subsequently died away and does not appear to be of any significance.

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Have you any plans to swindle (CACUS 4)? No. NSR.

I am going to ask you a question to see how fast and clear you can think. This suggestion gave the Subject a considerable shock. He afterwards admitted that all tests of his abilities gave him a strong emotional upset. "I have never made out well on any formal examinations." Subject appears to have an actual case of "Prüfungsangst" (fear of examinations), laterally aggravated by his inability to secure satisfactory employment.

4. ESTIMATED DEGREE OF ACCURACY: Results are estimated to be "fairly accurate" on the essential elements of the case.

5. ESTIMATE OF THE SUBJECT: (This is the Examiner's opinion as an interrogator): A stable individual of sound intelligence and considerable experience; probably of a pretty "right-wing" persuasion politically without being on the fanatical side. Although Subject had clearly had a rough time, he appears to have retained his sense of proportion and self-respect and would probably work well in the type of employment envisioned.

Distribution:

3 - EE

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3 - MOB

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